legal assistance to the poor. During the financial year 2001-2002, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) permitted the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority to carry forward unutilized funds of previous year amounting to Rs.25,97,871.74 out of Rs.59.50 lakhs allocated in the year 2000-2001 for being spent during the financial year 2001-2002 for implementation of various Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes of NALSA.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Success of family courts

3032. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the success of family courts in terms of number of cases disposed of in the last three years;

(b) if so, -the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the family courts are inadequate in number in some States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to open more family courts in those States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Monitoring of the rate of disposal of cases by the Family Courts and setting bench marks of disposal for Judges is a substantive function of the judiciary. However, the Government from time to time, have pointed out about the low disposal of cases by some Family Courts. Some of the High Courts like the High Courts of Kerala and Patna have informed that the. Judges of the Family Courts were given appropriate directions to enhance the disposal of cases with special attention to the cases pending for over a period of two years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. States like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh had empowered Additional District Judge in each Divisional headquarters to dispose of cases under the Family Courts. In some

States, a few cities have now exceeded one million population, as per Census, 2001. Some States, especially in the North-East have conventional courts to dispose of family disputes. States like Himachal Pradesh have no city or town exceeding one million population. Some of the States like Punjab and Gujarat are in the process of setting up of more Family Courts. States like Haryana and the NCT Delhi have yet to set up a Family Court.

On the basis of recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women, the matter has been taken up with all the State Governments/TJT Administrations to set up more Family Courts to speed up disposal of family disputes. In order to encourage and assist the States in setting up more Family Courts, fifty percent Central grant is being extended to them for the establishment and running of new Family Courts which are now being set up during the year 2002-2003.

Amendments in Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

3033. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact amendment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make it more effective and relevant in the current context;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Arbitration has made suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The Government has received suggestions from the Indian Council of Arbitration, Rajasthan Chapter, for amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Law Commission of India has also recommended certain amendments to the said Act in its 176th